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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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| Applicant:  | Alex Dai-Shun Poon   | Examiner:       | Mila Airapetian |
| Serial No.: | 09/730,034   | Group Art Unit: | 3625            |
| Filed:      | December 4, 2000   | Docket No.:     | 2043.126US1     |
| Title:      | METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FACILITATING USER REGISTRATION<br>IN AN ON-LINE AUCTION ENVIRONMENT |                 |                 |

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**SUGGESTED RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND REQUEST FOR TELEPHONIC  
INTERVIEW**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Please consider the following suggestion for a restriction requirement. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(c), this Suggested Restriction Requirement is submitted before a first Office action on the merits, before an Office action that contains a requirement to comply with the requirement of unity of invention under PCT Rule 13, and before a requirement for restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 in the application.

**Suggested Restriction Requirement**

Applicant suggests that the claims can be restricted into the following Groups:

Group I (Claims 1-26 and 30-37) directed toward user registration in a network wherein a verification rating for registration includes a threshold that varies based on whether the user is a corporation or an individual.

Group II (Claims 38-57) directed toward user registration in a network wherein a verification rating for registration is accessible by a different user that is registered.

Group III (Claims 58-74) directed toward user registration in a network wherein a verification rating for registration includes a threshold is proportionate to at least one of a